

ESTABLISHED 1840.

APPEAL.

WHATSOEVER PROBABILITIES.

WASHINGTON, August 19, 1875.
For the South Atlantic and Gulf States, Tennessee, and the Ohio valley, except possibly by light rains near the coast, and west winds, mostly from the north and east, and rising barometer.

D. M. KEY SENATOR.

A dispatch received late last night says the excitement in regard to supplying the vacancy in the United States senate will now terminate, as Governor Porter, in response to the demands of East Tennessee, has appointed D. M. Key to succeed Ex-President Johnson. The politics of the State, is a man of forty-five years of age, decided in his political views, diligent in his manner, and very popular in his own section, but is not generally known throughout the State. His career in the senate may justify the confidence of the governor to East Tennessee, and dispel the feeling we cannot just now dismiss, that Governor Porter has made a mistake in denying to the State the services of the experienced statesman supported by the APPEAL.

ON WEDNESDAY, the first of September next, we will publish for the benefit especially of our country friends, a full report of the trade and commerce of Memphis for the year 1874-5, particularly so much of it as embraces the cotton trade. As is our custom at the beginning of the commercial year, we shall issue a very large edition of the APPEAL, and our pages for that occasion will be enlarged to our weekly size, each containing ten columns. We shall endeavor to make the APPEAL of the first of September every worthy the prestige of former years, and trust that we will be sustained in our efforts by the merchants and business men, in whose interests particularly it is to be published. Advertisers will do well to see our business manager about space and the number of copies desired.

JEFFERSON DAVIS AND THE WINNERS.

We publish this morning the answer of Mr. Jefferson Davis declining the invitation to address the agricultural society of Rockford, Illinois, and with it invitations addressed to him from sixteen other and similar societies—four from Illinois, two from Indiana, two from Pennsylvania, three from Missouri, two from Iowa, one from Wisconsin, one from Louisiana, and one from Maryland; all of which prove that the Rockford people are not singular and alone in their respect for one who has never forfeited the respect of his fellow-men or endangered in his life his sense of self-respect. It will be seen that the letter of declination from Mr. Davis is couched in courteous terms, and sets forth clearly the reasons that first prompted his acceptance and ultimately his withdrawal of that acceptance. His anxiety to promote the interests of the great valley whose people, in and out of place and power, he has served with unswerving fidelity, was the primal and controlling motive in his acceptance of the flattering invitation of the Winnebago county people, whose territory he had known when, yet a young man, he was laying the foundations of his great career. This, and his ardent desire to serve the farmers and farming interests and to gratify his desire to see the new boy region that he first held a trackless wilderness, and the leading statesman of the south States, in the courtesy of the Winnebago society, in this there is nothing of politics, past, present or to come, and not a word, suggestion or hint that could in the least invite the torrent of abuse, billingsgate and backbiting that from many of the Radical papers has been showered upon his unflinching head. There is neither taunt or accusation, State rights or Confederacy, nor any sentence that could be tortured into an insidious covert design, either to interfere with the political, social or local affairs of the modern Winnebagoes, nor any threat of his intention to attempt their conversion to the theories of government that despite their opposition and incessantly, as far as they are concerned, grow faster and have to-day more hearty and zealous supporters than when he left his place in the United States senate, in obedience to the command of his people, to attempt the establishment of what he and they hoped would be and strive to make "a more perfect government." Mr. Davis had no purpose in connection with a past that he knows is irrevocably gone beyond really desired simply to answer a purpose quite within his province as a citizen whose breadth of culture and presence and attainments single him among all men as one worthy to be a teacher and leader of men; and he did not suppose for a moment that in consenting to serve such a purpose he would incur in such violent, disgraceful and creditable measure the hate, malice and passion his fellow-citizens of the late Confederacy have done so much and gone so far to ally. He had read in the leading journals of the country the laudations and eulogies of leading public men and leading journalists following upon the ceremonies at Flowerdew cemetery, where he was a principal participant; upon the ceremonies at the Mississippi (Federal) cemetery, and the reunion between whites and blacks, at which Forrest, Pillow and Galloway were the prominent figures, and his inference that it was his duty to promote the kindly and neighborly feeling of the period was fully justified thereby. But even had he any doubts of it, with an array of evidence resting on so solid a basis of facts, they must have been cleared away before the numerous calls coming up from all sections of our "common country" inviting speech and action from one who had by trial and test in and beyond adversity won the regard of every man worthy the country and epoch in which we live. He remembered how heartily General Banks and Vice-President Wilson had been received here, and with what fervor the

son of Robert E. Lee had been received in Boston, and was encouraged to believe that if the people of Massachusetts and Memphis could thus vie with each other in generous rivalry in the good work of burying the past, it might readily be permitted him to accept the proffered courtesy of the people of Illinois, and so contribute his share to the end that will never be accomplished until this senseless persecution of him ceases. The people of the north, or such proportion of them as yet believe in the brutal taunting of Mr. Davis with crimes that cannot be truthfully laid to his door, may as well understand that his cause is ours, made so because he was our chosen leader, and is thrust upon us because as that leader, he held the Confederate States together long after hope had left their confides. As time recedes, and we in the south direct ourselves to the prejudices of locality or party, and prospective vision, we realize and know how valuable was his labor, how commensurate the work he did. We can weigh to their worth, too, the unselfish services which, to the best of a confessedly great ability, he exerted in our behalf, counting no cost of time or effort too great to be exerted in the cause to which he had dedicated the best years of his life and sunk his hopes of a promising future. We appreciate, honor and respect the man who served us with such fidelity, and in proportion as he is persecuted or abused is the increase in that appreciation, honor and respect. We know him well and thoroughly, and his career is before us, and we know that while he may have made mistakes as President of the Confederate States, no dishonor or crime can be laid at his door, least of all can it be truthfully charged that he was in any way responsible for the treatment of the prisoners at Andersonville, or anywhere else in the south. We know how earnestly he strove to effect an exchange of prisoners, and so do away with any necessity for prisons; and we also know that his every such effort was thwarted by the Federal government, upon the plea that they could afford to lose the services of an army of prisoners when by doing so they could deny to the south an army of equal numbers whose places we had no emigrants to fill. We also remember that the percentage of losses among prisoners of war was greater in the northern than the southern prisons, even by admission of Secretary Stanton, although the great abundance of food, clothing with the want of all three at the south. But enough. History will decide him as already it is vindicting him and the other generals whose names are like his endeared to the people of the south. It will recount how he took his place at Montgomery, without money, without troops, without any even of the machinery of civil government, without a navy, and directed to the chaos of confusion out of which the Confederacy was evolved and organized in the teeth of the Federal States a government that for four years and a half defied and fought the enemy in the field and maintained itself against internal cabals. It will treat of him from a loftier plain than the mediaeval Winnebago or the Occident editors will reach, and will mark him for all time as one of the few who can truthfully lay claim to the dignity and belongings of the statesman. In that belief let us rest and dismiss for ever the savage Winnebagoes.

JEFF. DAVIS.

His Telegram and Letter to H. P. Kimball in Answer to Invitation of Winnebago Agricultural Society.

His Reasons for Accepting and Rejecting the Invitation—A Plain, Matter-of-Fact Answer—No Politics in It.

Other Invitations to Mr. Davis from Illinois, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Missouri, Iowa, Wisconsin, Louisiana, and Maryland.

The invitation of the Winnebago Agricultural society to Ex-President Davis, requesting him to address that association at the annual meeting in September, which was at first accepted by the distinguished statesman, has, as will be seen by the following dispatch, been withdrawn.

JEFFERSON DAVIS, to H. P. Kimball, Secretary of the Winnebago Agricultural Society, Rockford, Ill., August 14, 1875.

For unexcused cause, must withdraw conditional acceptance of courteous invitation.

Subsequent to the forwarding of the above, the following letter, containing a full statement of his reasons for declining, was forwarded by Mr. Davis to Mr. Kimball:

MEMPHIS, TENN., August 15, 1875.

H. P. Kimball, Secretary Winnebago County Agricultural Society, Rockford, Ill.

Dear Sir—Your letter of the 14th inst. announcing my acceptance of the invitation to address your association at their annual meeting in September next, has been duly received. I am very glad to hear that the long period which has elapsed since the receipt of your first letter, and the consideration of the matter which has marked your correspondence, make it a duty to the board and to myself that a sufficient explanation should be given of this change of purpose. These objects are mainly induced me to accept the invitation. First, the hope that personal intercourse might remove some of the prejudices and misunderstandings which have been generated by partisan feelings and nurtured by individual and sectional hate. Anxious now, as in former years, to promote the interest of our great valley of the Mississippi, and believing that a personal confidence and acquaintance would be done for their advancement, I only delayed my acceptance of your invitation until it could be met. The productive capacity of the northwest needs for its development a cheaper and safer transportation to the markets of the southwest and also to those of foreign countries. In England, especially, earnest attention has been directed for several years past to a more direct and economical trade with the Mississippi valley. In this connection there was a desire to confer with the Patrons of Husbandry in your rich and prosperous section; to discuss with them the questions involved in securing better means of transporting your farm products to the most favorable markets; and of providing agencies which should insure the returns to the freedmen, and by such conference to learn the views of one member of the family of the Mississippi valley. A family, the chief interest of all the members of which is agriculture, but cultivators of such various crops as to make the trade among themselves extensive and lucrative, while it stamps upon each and all the same interest and the same policy as to their own trade. To render such a conference effective, there must needs be a disposition to attend to the subject under consideration, surely not a purpose to smother it by the interposition of matters having no just relation to it. The second object was to recognize the courtesy of your board, and I was encouraged to believe that your reception of me would be beneficial rather than injurious to your association. This was the more so, as I would cause several other agricultural societies of Illinois had in like manner invited me to address their annual meetings. Yesterday I received a printed paper, being the protest of a number of your 150 county men against the action of your board in their invitation to me to make the annual address at the county meeting. Thereupon I sent to you the telegram withdrawing my acceptance of the invitation, under the conviction that it would not be useful or agreeable to participate in the meeting, and I now hope that neither your association nor the directors will suffer harm by the delay in procuring an orator, or by the correspondence which has caused it. The third object was to gratify a long-entired desire to see in its cultivated dress a country to which I was as a trackless wilderness; but it was merely a personal gratification that could be indulged at my convenience or postponed indefinitely. I can well believe that the cause which has changed my purpose was unforeseen by you as by me, and you may be assured that I feel no dissatisfaction toward the directors or yourself, and have suffered no personal "embarrassment" from the event. As the invitation was unexpected, and only acceptable as the expression of general good will, so my only regret is the loss of opportunity to promote a public interest with which the welfare of our community is identified. Again expressing the hope that neither the directors nor yourself may suffer injury from this announcement, thanking you for the kindness and consideration you have manifested, I am, respectfully yours,

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Dear Sir—Your letter of the 14th inst. announcing my acceptance of the invitation to address your association at their annual meeting in September next, has been duly received. I am very glad to hear that the long period which has elapsed since the receipt of your first letter, and the consideration of the matter which has marked your correspondence, make it a duty to the board and to myself that a sufficient explanation should be given of this change of purpose. These objects are mainly induced me to accept the invitation. First, the hope that personal intercourse might remove some of the prejudices and misunderstandings which have been generated by partisan feelings and nurtured by individual and sectional hate. Anxious now, as in former years, to promote the interest of our great valley of the Mississippi, and believing that a personal confidence and acquaintance would be done for their advancement, I only delayed my acceptance of your invitation until it could be met. The productive capacity of the northwest needs for its development a cheaper and safer transportation to the markets of the southwest and also to those of foreign countries. In England, especially, earnest attention has been directed for several years past to a more direct and economical trade with the Mississippi valley. In this connection there was a desire to confer with the Patrons of Husbandry in your rich and prosperous section; to discuss with them the questions involved in securing better means of transporting your farm products to the most favorable markets; and of providing agencies which should insure the returns to the freedmen, and by such conference to learn the views of one member of the family of the Mississippi valley. A family, the chief interest of all the members of which is agriculture, but cultivators of such various crops as to make the trade among themselves extensive and lucrative, while it stamps upon each and all the same interest and the same policy as to their own trade. To render such a conference effective, there must needs be a disposition to attend to the subject under consideration, surely not a purpose to smother it by the interposition of matters having no just relation to it. The second object was to recognize the courtesy of your board, and I was encouraged to believe that your reception of me would be beneficial rather than injurious to your association. This was the more so, as I would cause several other agricultural societies of Illinois had in like manner invited me to address their annual meetings. Yesterday I received a printed paper, being the protest of a number of your 150 county men against the action of your board in their invitation to me to make the annual address at the county meeting. Thereupon I sent to you the telegram withdrawing my acceptance of the invitation, under the conviction that it would not be useful or agreeable to participate in the meeting, and I now hope that neither your association nor the directors will suffer harm by the delay in procuring an orator, or by the correspondence which has caused it. The third object was to gratify a long-entired desire to see in its cultivated dress a country to which I was as a trackless wilderness; but it was merely a personal gratification that could be indulged at my convenience or postponed indefinitely. I can well believe that the cause which has changed my purpose was unforeseen by you as by me, and you may be assured that I feel no dissatisfaction toward the directors or yourself, and have suffered no personal "embarrassment" from the event. As the invitation was unexpected, and only acceptable as the expression of general good will, so my only regret is the loss of opportunity to promote a public interest with which the welfare of our community is identified. Again expressing the hope that neither the directors nor yourself may suffer injury from this announcement, thanking you for the kindness and consideration you have manifested, I am, respectfully yours,

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

LETTERS TO WHICH THE ABOVE IS A RESPONSE.

The following are Mr. Kimball's letters to Mr. Davis, to which the above is an answer:

ROCKFORD, ILL., July 15, 1875.

Hon. Jefferson Davis:

GENT—I am desirous of securing your services as a speaker for our next exposition, September 14th. I will guarantee that you will be heard with pleasure, and that you will not regret a visit with us. I will give you four hundred dollars to give us an hour's talk on September 14th, Thursday afternoon. Let me know immediately. Yours truly,

H. P. KIMBALL, Secretary.

Hon. Jefferson Davis, Memphis, Tenn.

Having addressed an invitation to your honor, before to deliver a brief talk to the Patrons of Husbandry association, and not having received a reply—perhaps through misapprehension

JEFFERSON DAVIS, to H. P. Kimball, Secretary of the Winnebago Agricultural Society, Rockford, Ill., August 14, 1875.

For unexcused cause, must withdraw conditional acceptance of courteous invitation.

Subsequent to the forwarding of the above, the following letter, containing a full statement of his reasons for declining, was forwarded by Mr. Davis to Mr. Kimball:

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